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MURIDÆ.

Mus musculus, Linn., (House Mouse): Found about buildings, and in cultivated fields. (Introduced.)

Neotoma floridana, Say & Ord., (Wood Rat; Pack Rat): Common; lives in holes among rocks, and in willow brush along streams.

Hesperomys leucopus sonoriensis, LeC., (White-footed Mouse): Very numerous in fields, and about houses and barns.

Hesperomys leucogaster, Maxim., (Mole Mouse): Common in fields, and often found about farm buildings.

Ochetodon humilis, Aud. & Bach., (Little Harvest Mouse): Common in fields, and occasionally found about buildings; seen in the fields most frequently when the ground is covered with snow.

Arvicola austerus, LeC., (Prairie Meadow Mouse): Common; found in moist bottom lands and cultivated fields.

Fiber zibethicus, Cuv., (Musk Rat): Numerous along streams; solitary individuals, which were perhaps migrating, have occasionally been found at a considerable distance from water.

HYSTRICIDÆ.

Erethizon dorsatus epixanthus, Brandt, (Yellow-haired Porcupine): Found among bluffs, and where there is timber; not common.

LEPORIDÆ.

Lepus campestris, Bach., (White-tailed Jack Rabbit): Numerous; lives in burrows on the open prairie.

Lepus sylvaticus, Bach., (Cotton-tail Rabbit): Very common among bluffs, in brush along streams, and about cultivated fields.

Lepus callois texianus, Waterh., (Black-tailed Jack Rabbit): Lives in burrows on the open prairie; very common.

THE ANHINGA.

(*Anhinga anhinga* Linn.)

BY N. S. GOSS.

Habitat, tropical and subtropical America, north to South Carolina, southern Kansas, and western Mexico.

This species was captured within the State, in the Solomon valley, in August, 1881, by Mr. C. W. Smith, of Stockton; and May 1st, 1888, Mr. Daniel Lambert, of Wilburn, Ford county, shot in the northern part of Meade county, on Crooked Creek, five of these birds, out of a small flock that arrived a few days before, and together. There is quite a thick grove of trees along the creek in this vicinity, and (it may have been disturbed) it is possible they might have nested there, and it may have been their occasional breeding-ground before the settlement of the county. The first time I met with the birds was at the mouth of the San Jacinto river, and on Buffalo bayou, Texas, during the last of March and first of April. I was too early for their eggs, but before I left they had commenced building their nests in the trees. The birds are more or less gregarious, roosting in small flocks at night in the tree-tops, and during the day, when at rest, are to be seen perched upon an old stub, or the lower branches of trees over the water. I found them very shy, and ever upon the alert, darting from their perch at the sight of an intruder, and disappearing beneath the water without scarcely leaving a ripple upon its surface, coming up hundreds of

yards away, and if badly frightened, only thrusting its bill out far enough to take in a supply of air; if the water is not perfectly smooth, it is useless to look for them. Its food is chiefly fish, which it catches beneath the water, where it flies, with the aid of its feet, as swiftly as in the air, rarely even at such times coming above the surface with more than the head and neck, which is so long, slim, and wavy in motion that it is oftener taken for a snake than a bird. When not fishing or apprehensive of danger, they ride up lightly on the water. I have since met with the birds all along the Gulf coast, and on the lagoons, and up the rivers that I visited in Central America.

The nests of the birds are placed on bushes, or branches of trees overhanging the water, varying in height from four to thirty feet. They are quite bulky, and made of sticks, and lined with leaves, rootlets, moss, etc.

Eggs, two to four; 2.12x1.34; pale bluish green, with more or less of a white calcareous covering; in form, oblong oval to ovate. A set of two eggs, taken April 28th, 1882, at the mouth of the Guadalupe river, Texas, from a nest made of sticks and green twigs in leaf, in a willow tree, eleven feet from the ground, are in dimensions 2.20x1.66, 2.10x1.34.

THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.

(*Phalacrocorax dilophus* Sw. and Rich.)

BY N. S. GOSS.

In Kansas, migratory; not uncommon. Arrive the last of March to first of April. To be looked for in the old, deep channels of the rivers, in the low-timbered lands. Return in October.

Habitat, northeastern North America, south in winter to the Gulf coast; breeding from the Bay of Fundy northward and westward to Manitoba.

The birds are abundant on the northeast coast, decreasing in numbers westward to the Rocky Mountains. They have been reported west of the Rockies, and breeding there, but the specimens taken on the Pacific side prove to be an intermediate race between this species and *albociliatus*. The birds subsist chiefly upon fish, which they capture by diving and pursuing beneath the water with a speed that the swiftest of the finny tribe seldom escape, coming to the surface with their capture, tossing the same in the air and catching it head first as it falls, so that the fins will not prevent its passage into the stomach. The throat readily expands, and enables them to swallow fishes larger than the neck in its normal condition. I have often noticed the birds, when resting upon a log or perched upon a limb over the water, suddenly drop and disappear beneath its surface at the sight of a fish—catching it, however, in a fair chase, and not, like the gannet or kingfisher, by plunging upon their prey. All the birds of this family are voracious eaters, and the craving for food makes them active hunters, and they are successfully used in many places by fishermen, who tie a string around their necks to prevent their swallowing the catch. The Chinese, especially, rear and train the birds upon their boats for fishers, with great success.

LeConte says: "To this end, they are educated as men rear up spaniels or hawks, and one man can easily manage an hundred. The fisher carries them out into the lake, perched on the gunwale of his boat, where they continue tranquil, and expecting his orders with patience. When arrived at the proper place, at the first signal given, each flies a different way to fulfill the task assigned it. It is very pleasant on this occasion, to behold with what sagacity they portion out the lake or canal where they are upon duty. They hunt about, they plunge, they rise an hundred